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GABRIOLA ISLAND IN B.C. AN ARTIST MAGNET
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CHAMELEON
RUDD TRANSFORMS COMEDIC STYLE IN NEW FLICK {page 9}

LONDON metro®
Wednesday, August 24, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Recognition for cycle city

- Share the Road Cycling Coalition applauds communities' dedication to bicycle infrastructure
- City of London plans to continue adding bike lanes, maintaining pathways: Mayor

London has been named a Bicycle Friendly Community by a group working to make Ontario safer and more attractive to cyclists.

Mayor Joe Fontana accepted the award from the Share the Road Cycling Coalition yesterday during the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's annual conference. The city received a bronze-level nod — three steps away from platinum, the highest honour.

Fontana said the city has been working to make cycling a "pleasurable experience" for Londoners.

"We've got a long way to go. That said, we've made some great strides," the mayor said.

The city has been chipping away at giving cyclists their own street space since the early 1990s, said Jay Stanford, director of environmental programs and solid waste management.

The work started by building boulevards to give cyclists their own space on streets. About 10 years ago, the city started transitioning from boulevards to bike lanes.

Based on a count from 2010, 18 city streets had bike lanes, counting toward 95 kilometres of roadway with space set aside for cyclists, Stanford said. Another 12 kilometres of street will be reserved for cyclists by the end of next year.

Bike lanes are added when planned construction projects allow for widening streets. The focus, Stanford said, has been on thoroughfares such as Highbury Avenue and Wonderland Road.

Aside from giving cyclists extra space, the city has made an effort to put drivers on the lookout for bicycles. The Sharrows Program launched last year has added "Share the Road" markings to numerous city streets. City staffers are planning a bike summit this fall — tentatively November — in conjunction with the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, Stanford said

The coalition's Bicycle Friendly award is in its first year. So far, eight communities have been recognized.

Communities apply for the honour by submitting an application that is evaluated in five categories: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation and planning.

ANGELA MULLINS

Conservation. Display

▶ Kalen Pilkington poses with two of 18 cubes on display at Victoria Park yesterday afternoon.

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

Saving water no walk in the park

The 18 cubic metres at Victoria Park are significant because they represent the average amount of water that a London household uses per month.

"There are water-conservation messages on (each cube) to help people reduce their water-consumption habits," Kalen Pilkington said. She is a water-conservation intern with the City of London. She hopes the display in Victoria Park will get people to make smarter environmental choices. Pilkington is a master's student in environment and sustainability at Western.

Gold and Silver Coins Selling for Highest Prices in Over 30 Years Due to Weak Economy and It's Happening Right Here in London!

By DAVID MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

ICC will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any old silver and gold coins made before 1968 and U.S. coins made before 1970. Those that bring in their coins will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their coins looked at by a specialist. With the help of these ICC members, offers will be made to those that have coins made before 1968. Offers will be made based on silver or gold content and the rarity of the coins. All coins made before 1968 will be examined and purchased including gold coins, silver coins, silver dollars, all types of nickels and pennies. Those that decide to sell their coins will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people you might have a few old coins or even a coffee can full lying around. If you have ever wondered what they are worth now might be your chance to find out and even sell them if you choose. They could be worth a lot according to the International Coin Collectors also known as ICC. Collectors will pay a fortune for some coins and currency for their collections. If it is rare enough, one coin could be worth over $100,000 according to Eric Helms, coin collector and ICC member. One ultra rare dime, an 1894S Barber, sold for a record $1.9 million to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable coins are stashed away in dresser drawers or lock boxes around the country. The ICC and its collector members have organized a traveling event in search of all types of coins and currency. Even common coins can be worth a significant amount due to the high price of silver and gold, says Helms. Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes can be worth many times their face value. Recent silver markets have driven the price up on common coins made of silver. Helms explains that all U.S. half dollars, quarters and dimes made before 1970 contain 90% silver and are sought after any time silver prices rise. Right now it's a sellers market he said.

The rarest coins these collectors are looking for include $20, $10, $5 and $2 1/2 gold coins and any coin made before 1850. These coins always bring big premiums according to the ICC. Silver dollars are also very sought after nowadays.

Other types of items the ICC will be purchasing during this event include U.S. currency, gold bullion, investment gold, silver bars, silver rounds, proof sets, etc. Even foreign coins are sought after and will be purchased.

Also at this event anyone can sell their gold jewelry, dental gold or anything made of gold on the spot. Gold is currently trading at over $1,500.00 per ounce near an all time high. Bring anything you think might be gold and the collectors will examine, test and price it for free. If you decide to sell, you will be paid on the spot – it has been an unknown fact that coin dealers have always paid more for jewelry and scrap gold than other jewelers and pawn brokers.

So whether you have one coin you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free. If your're lucky you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun!

What We Buy:

COINS
Any and all coins made before 1968, U.S. coins made before 1970, rare coins, entire collections, Silver Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarters, Dimes, Half Dimes, Nickels, Three Cent Pieces, Two Cent Pieces, Cents, Large Cents, Half Cents and all others.

PAPER MONEY
All denominations made before 1934.

GOLD COINS
Including $20, $10, $5, $4, $3, $2.5, $1, Private Gold, Gold Bars, etc.

INVESTMENT GOLD
Kruggerands, Canadian Maple Leafs, Pandas, Gold Bars, U.S. Eagles and Buffalos, etc.

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Broken and unused jewelry, dental gold.

JEWELRY
Diamond rings, bracelets, earrings, loose diamonds, all gem stones, etc.

PLATINUM
Anything made of platinum.

SILVER
Flatware, tea sets, goblets, jewelry, etc. and anything marked sterling.

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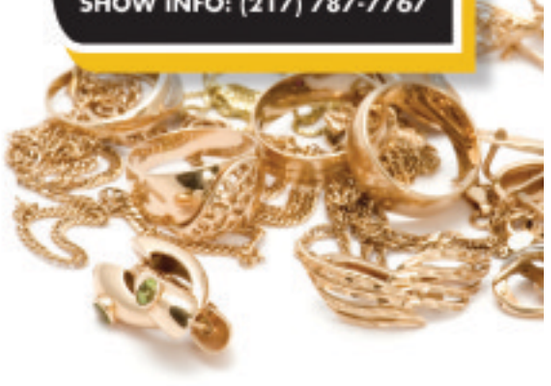


Trying to amaze Sir Paul

Christine Newland's portrait of Linda McCartney will be included in a worldwide contest running Sept. 7 through Sept. 13

MIKE ARSENAULT
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA

Christine Newland — Orchestra London's principal cellist — has traded her bow for dry pastels and created a portrait of Linda McCartney inspired by the Beatle's music.

Newland's piece, entitled Angel in Heaven, will be pitted against other works of art in a global competition that hopes to find an iconic visual representation of Paul McCartney's music.

"I was watching the video (Maybe I'm Amazed) — I've always loved that video," Newland said. "I found myself getting really moved by it and emotional, and I thought about Paul and Linda's relationship. I found myself inspired to do this portrait (of) her."

In a sequence of events that can only be described as serendipitous, Newland created the portrait with no knowledge of the contest and finished the piece in one day. She then posted a picture of her work on McCartney's Facebook fan page when she learned of the competition.

> **"I love animals and people who defend them, and so this is my way of saying thank you to Linda and Paul for their contributions to this world and to their love."**
> CHRISTINE NEWLAND

"A link was posted to this art contest and I thought, well, that is really weird," Newland said. "(The artwork) was to be based on several videos and one of those videos was Maybe I'm Amazed."

The winner of the contest will be revealed Oct. 5. McCartney will choose the winning piece from all qualified submissions and special consideration will be given to top-rated entries.

The public can vote for Newland's work at talenthouse.com.

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

▶ London's Christine Newland poses with Angel in Heaven, her portrait of Linda McCartney inspired by the song Maybe I'm Amazed.

1 news

Inside Tripoli's $400 per night Rixos Hotel that has become a prison for foreign reporters. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Archeologists working at the Montreal site of a pre-Confederation parliament unearth relics of the past. Video at metronews.ca

Follow us on Twitter @themetrolondon

Eating-disorder centre funded

- Residential treatment program first of kind in Ontario
- Leaders have been trying to get money since 2003

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

The province has dedicated $2.4 million annually to helping London-area adults with eating disorders.

The funding, announced yesterday by Health Minister Deb Matthews, will pay for a residential treatment centre and a day-treatment program. Right now, people who need residential care are sent south of the border, said Don Seymour, executive director of the Western Ontario Therapeutic Community Hostel.

METRO FILE

▶ Health Minister Deb Matthews

The hostel, which provides mental-health services, is partnering with London Health Sciences Centre and the Eating Disorders Foundation of Canada on the effort.

Space for the residential program will be rented, with the goal of building a standalone facility in the future, Seymour said.

By the numbers

- Eight spots will be open for residential treatment.
- Four people with more serious issues will be able to get hospital care.
- Fifty-two spots will be open for day treatment.

Diamond. Favourite

▶ Labatt Park is one step closer to being named Canada's Favourite Ballpark.

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

Bases loaded — just hit 'er home

London's Labatt Park faces Thunder Bay's Port Arthur Stadium in the final poll of Baseball Canada's search for the country's favourite ballpark. To vote for Forest City's historic baseball park, visit baseball.ca. Voting ends Sept. 6 at 10 a.m.

Counting crows for West Nile

3 Number of crows in London that have tested positive this summer for West Nile virus.

Two more dead crows have tested positive for West Nile Virus in London. One was found in the Oakridge area while the other was found in the city's east end.

The Middlesex London Health Unit is reminding people to take necessary precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites. AM980/AM980.CA

IN 2003 BABIES
WERE SCREENED FOR 2 DISEASES.
NOW THEY'RE SCREENED FOR 28.

Source: Ministry of Health, 2011.

Deb Matthews, MPP
www.debmatthews.ca

Chris Bentley, MPP
www.chrisbentley.onmpp.ca

Khalil Ramal, MPP
www.khalilramal.onmpp.ca

You asked, London Transit answered

Transit wish list

Recently, we asked Londoners what they would like to see in their ideal transit system. We sent some of those ideas to the London Transit Commission to get their thoughts. Responses are courtesy of Larry Ducharme, general manager of the LTC.

Longer hours, especially on weekends; express routes; more direct routes connecting lower-income and social-welfare housing to key services.

- The public and customers alike have clearly indicated LTC has to:
  • increase current service frequency,
  • expand coverage/catchment area,
  • provide extended hours of service by time of day and day of week,
  • add express bus service,
  • reduce travel time,
  • provide more direct, routes reducing the need to transfer,
  • provide competitive pricing, and
  • increase public awareness of routes, schedules and how the system operates.
- Current service growth requests, covering many of the above expectations, require the addition of 75,000 annual hours of service. LTC has, over the past number of years, averaged approximately 6,000 additional service hours per year.
- That being said, progress is being made on all of those requests, albeit slowly, given economic realities, competing demands for investment (both internal and external to LTC), and constraints on public investment.

More hybrid buses.

- LTC's 10-year capital-budget plan calls for the balanced expansion of its fleet of diesel-electric hybrid buses from the current four to 52 by 2021. The additional vehicles will be acquired as part of LTC's bus-replacement program. The balanced expansion of hybrid buses considers the higher capital cost of hybrid vehicles versus green diesel buses ($250,000 per vehicle), favourable fuel economy (hybrid versus diesel), environmental impacts and maintenance risks associated with new technology.

Wi-Fi.

- The capital costs associated with providing Wi-fi access on LTC buses is estimated at $1,200 per bus or $229,200 plus labour cost. The ongoing operating cost associated with the application is expected to range from $210,000 to $230,000, or approximately $100 per month per bus.
- While the investment in Wi-Fi would be a benefit to some passengers, the LTC has more critical use for such scarce investment dollars. For example, the annual operating cost of $230,000 would allow the LTC to provide approximately 3,000 additional annual hours of service resulting in a ridership return of an estimated 120,000 trips. The critical decision is one of first improving the quality and level of service before investing in ancillary services that do not have a demonstrated benefit of improving service and increasing ridership.

U.S. tremor felt far and wide

People scurried onto city streets
Some flights were put on hold, while trains ran at slower speeds

One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded on the East Coast of the U.S. shook buildings and rattled nerves yesterday, forcing the evacuation of parts of the Capitol, White House and Pentagon.

There were no immediate reports of deaths, but there were some injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake registered magnitude 5.8 and was centred about 64 kilometres northwest of Richmond, Va. Two nuclear reactors at the North Anna Power Station were automatically taken off line by safety systems.

With the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11 approaching, fears were triggered of something more sinister than a natural disaster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaky ground

- **People from across central** and eastern Canada, including residents of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and London reported feeling effects including rumbling desks and swaying buildings.
- **Earthquake Canada said** Canadians weren't feeling tremors or aftershocks, just waves from the quake.
- **More than 12 million** people live close enough to the quake's epicentre to have felt shaking.
- **Social media sites lit up** with first-hand accounts from Canada and the U.S.
- **In 1897, a magnitude-5.9** quake at Giles County, Va., was the strongest ever recorded in the state.

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Office workers gather on the sidewalk in downtown Washington, D.C., yesterday moments after a 5.8-magnitude tremor shook the U.S. capital.

NDP front-runner already on the horizon

One of Jack Layton's closest advisers is emerging as a surprise front-runner to pick up the torch from the fallen NDP leader.

Insiders say party president Brian Topp is receiving a lot of encouragement from influential quarters to join the impending race to succeed Layton, who died on Monday.

Topp is one of the key architects of Layton's success and was among the last of Layton's tight-knit inner circle to speak with him before his death.

Montreal MP Thomas Mulcair, Layton's deputy leader, is widely considered the only other prospective candidate to have a serious shot at taking Layton's place.

Signs of leadership jockeying emerged yesterday even as plans were drawn up for Layton's body to lie in state on Parliament Hill and Toronto City Hall before a state funeral in Toronto on Saturday.

His closed casket will rest for visitation in the foyer outside the House of Commons.

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Melanie d'Esterre reads from a wall that has been made into a tribute to the late NDP leader Jack Layton at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto yesterday

The lying-in-state will be open to the public today from 12:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. ET, and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET. He will receive a 15-gun salute as he leaves Parliament Hill.

Layton's casket will then rest "in repose" at Toronto City Hall all day Friday and Saturday morning before a state funeral at Roy Thomson Hall that afternoon.

The state funeral, normally accorded only to current and former prime ministers, current cabinet ministers and governors general, was offered by Prime Minister Stephen Harper out of respect for Layton's stature.

Topp, meanwhile, declined to comment on his possible leadership aspirations.

"We lost Jack yesterday and his funeral is on Saturday," Topp said in an interview. "It's not appropriate to talk about his successor this week."

Mulcair could not be reached for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

RICHARD DREW, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dominique Strauss-Kahn

DSK case collapses

A pair of judges put an end yesterday to the sensational sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn, setting him free after prosecutors argued the hotel housekeeper accusing the former International Monetary Fund head of sexual assault couldn't be trusted.

The decision to drop the charges in a case that has attracted global attention as a cauldron of sex, violence, power and politics had been widely expected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebels storm Gadhafi army compound

Hundreds of Libyan rebels blasted through Moammar Gadhafi's Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli yesterday. They beat and killed some of those who defended it, fired celebratory shots in the air and hauled off crates of weapons and trucks. This marked the effective collapse of Gadhafi's 42-year-old regime, even though pockets of resistance are likely to persist for some time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winehouse death still a mystery

Amy Winehouse had no illegal drugs in her system when she died, and it is still unclear what killed the singer, her family said yesterday.

Toxicology tests showed "alcohol was present" but it is not determined if it this contributed to her death. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ministry to 'look into' tornado death

The family of a salt-mine worker fatally crushed by debris in a violent tornado that ripped through a southwestern Ontario town on the weekend grappled yesterday with his death.

Two days after police broke the news that her 61-year-old husband had died, Brenda Turcotte Laberge said she still doesn't know why he was the only one killed in the storm that battered Goderich with 280 km/h winds and injured 37 other people.

Normand Laberge died on the job at the Sifto salt mine, the largest rock-salt mine in the world. Other employees who were working at the time survived.

A spokeswoman for Sifto's parent company Compass Minerals said the mine was being evacuated but Laberge wasn't able to escape. Ontario's Ministry of Labour is looking into what caused Laberge's death and what procedures were taken to prevent it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PHOTO COURTESY OF AKSHAY KOTHARI

▶ Nine-million-dollar smile: Akshay Kothari attended Facebook class and founded Pulse.com, a news aggregator that now has five million users.

Think rich with Facebook class

Mark Zuckerberg who? Stanford University students learn how to create equally successful biz plans

ELISABETH BRAW
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON, ENGLAND

The company founded and run by Evan Reas has 10 employees and $6 million in investor funding. Reas's business concept is simple: his website, lal.com, allows college students to flirt online. And U.S. college students apparently don't get to flirt enough in real life — thousands have signed up.

Reas himself is still just 26. He's one of the super-entrepreneurs trained at Stanford University's "Facebook class."

"The class was extremely practical," says Reas.

"(Professor B.J. Fogg) taught us the theory of entrepreneurship, but expected us to use it in the real world and try it out with small experiments to attempt to do it ourselves," says Reas.

"He wanted us to talk to users and to get real data ourselves rather than just reading it in a book."

The class, launched by Fogg and Dave McClure in 2007, hasn't just spawned Reas and lal.com. In fact, its main result is a new generation of companies that make money on Facebook apps. The first-year students designed apps that attracted 16 million users.

"The concept of this class had never been tried before," explains Professor Fogg. "The students built real things and put them out in the world. I told them to drop out if they didn't like challenges."

Their seminar was, in essence, a boot camp for future Silicon Valley stars. Many are now millionaires, at least on paper.

Akshay Kothari, 25, took the class last year and founded Pulse.me, an app that allows users to create a screen mosaic of their favourite news sites.

Since launching 14 months ago, Pulse has gained million users, $10 million in funding and an endorsement from Steve Jobs.

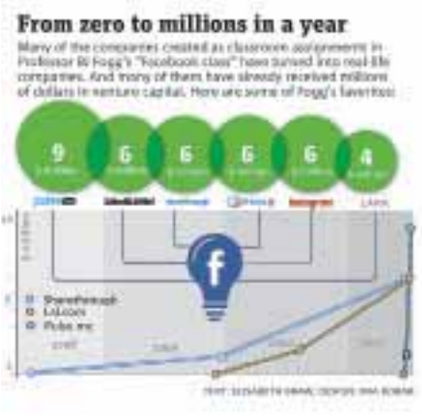
"You should be able to create a business idea and launch it within 40 minutes."
PROF. B.J. FOGG,

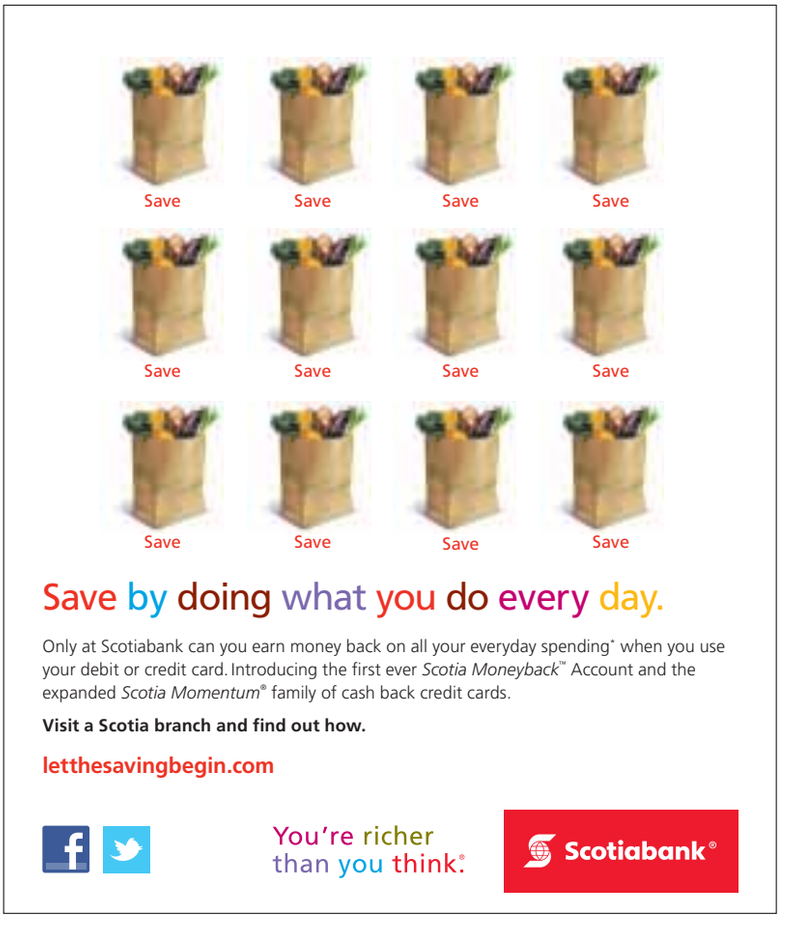
Fogg says starting a successful company is actually fairly simple. "The biggest mistake companies make is to overthink." he says.

"They make their products too complicated, add way too many features, and delay launching for fear of failure. Successful apps are simple, social and fun."

Creative payoff

- Professor BJ Fogg directs Stanford's Persuasive Technology Lab. The prof changes the class each year. This year, he taught students how to use technology to reduce people's stress.
- Several weeks after the 2007 Facebook class ended, the students' Facebook apps had 24 million users.
- Many of the students have sold their ideas to existing companies or started companies featuring their apps.

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News in brief

Tag — you're not it anymore

FACEBOOK FRIENDS. Facebook will now let you decide whether friends can attach your name to a photo before it's posted.

The change won't affect friends adding photos of you, only whether your name is attached to it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goodlife gets big strife

FITNESS. Goodlife Fitness Centres has paid a $300,000 penalty for using automated systems to call members without permission.

The CRTC said that 60 calls had been made from May to December 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KFC arrives in East Africa

CHICKEN. Good news for chicken lovers: KFC just opened its first restaurant in Kenya.

KFC sits in a new wing of a Nairobi mall and is the first U.S. fast food outlet in East Africa's most developed economy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lois lane actress arrested at protest

50 During a peaceful protest Saturday, 50 environmental activists were arrested and spent two nights in jail.

Canadian actress Margot Kidder was among the latest slate of environmentalists to be arrested outside the White House yesterday, handcuffed and sent to jail on the fourth day of a two-week civil disobedience campaign against TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline.

Kidder, born in Yellowknife but now living in Montana as an American citizen, was arrested alongside fellow Canadian actress Tantoo Cardinal by U.S. Park Police for refusing to vacate a White House sidewalk.

U.S. President Barack Obama will decide by the end of the year whether to allow Calgary-based TransCanada to build the $7-billion US pipeline. It would transport millions of barrels of Alberta oilsands crude a week through the U.S. and to Gulf Coast refineries.

"We're the first state the pipeline goes through," Kidder, 62, best known for playing Lois Lane in four Superman movies, said before her arrest.

She marched from Lafayette Square north of the White House to the sidewalk lining the presidential residence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 269.97 (12,338.33)	+ 0.21¢ (101.21¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas
+ $1.02 ($85.44 US)	1,000 cu ft $3.89 US (+0.1¢)

Gold $1,861.30 US (- $30.60)

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That's why Ontario has expanded breast cancer screening to more women. Find out when it's the right time for you to start screening at ontario.ca/screenforlife

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IF ONLY I HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY SONG I'VE SUNG

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

So you think you can sing.

Not to worry, it's a common delusion, and with treatment, you can lead a nearly normal life.

I, for example, have learned to confine my delusion to the car with the windows rolled up all the way, to the tune of Sweet Home Alabama. Well, maybe not to the exact tune, but only a sharp or flat off.

I used to sing in the shower, but the SPCA came by one day and confiscated my dog. Some neighbour thought that horrible noise could only be the beseeching cries of an abused animal and called it in.

"I can only guess these audio-assisted thrushes have moved up through the bars and bubble-tea joints of the world and asking them to sing without their beloved music machine would be like asking Lady Gaga to appear in public without her meat dress."

Sadly, some people choose to ignore the evidence, and there's even a machine that aids and abets their transgressions. It's called a karaoke machine and, along with other weird stuff like sushi and manga, it comes from Japan.

Just so you know, "karaoke" means "empty orchestra," which just about sums it up. As anyone who has ever been to a bar knows, the karaoke machine provides the lush orchestral accompaniment, complete with lyrics, and the usually drunken patrons provide the vocal track.

The really amazing thing is that unlike the house band, karaoke never sounds better no matter how many drinks you have.

So imagine my, er, delight when I discovered there's a World Karaoke Championship, where they actually encourage these people with cash prizes and recording contracts. This year, it's in Killarney, Ireland, from Sept. 8-10. You might want to vacation in France this year.

The last one was held in Moscow, and they should have the broken glass cleared up in time for the 2014 Winter Olympics. The World Karaoke Championship website quickly points out that this contest bears no resemblance to the usual alcohol-fuelled caterwauling in bars — these people can really sing.

But if they can really sing, why do they need the cheesy canned arrangements and backup singers? Why not just ... sing? I can only guess these audio-assisted thrushes have moved up through the bars and bubble-tea joints of the world and asking them to sing without their beloved music machine would be like asking Lady Gaga to appear in public without her meat dress.

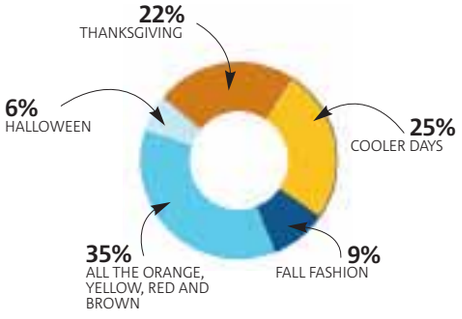
It's part of the act.

There are two British Columbians representing Canada at the 2011 Killarney blarney fest. To Trevor Dunn and Jerrica Santos, I say: Good luck and stay away from Sweet Home Alabama. That one's mine.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

With fall around the corner, what are you looking forward to most?



Local tweets

- **@manitowabi:** #Earthquake felt in #LdnOnt. It was very subtle
- **@highfieldmatt:** Tornadoes, earthquakes, what's next a tsunami on the thames.. #ldnont #mothernatureisbananas
- **@childishmanbino:** Felt my apartment shake, thought I was still hungover... #earthquake #ldnont
- **@phrawr:** the students #uwo #fanshawe are starting to come back.....population is going to increase significantly #ldnont
- **@Phil_Sach:** Probably not the best time to be listening to "So Long Goodbye" by Sum 41 #uwo #memories #goodbye
- **@Atlphyre:** I'm of the opinion that #UWO should form a Quidditch team.
- **@akwca:** Why is fuel 127 per litre in london, and 118 in Ingersoll?? #ldnont
- **@leadinglondon:** Last month (July 2011) 446 homes exchanged hands in the #ldnont/St. Thomas Area. 34% were two storey homes
- **@Sadie_Liz:** Thinking of wandering over to Galleria for lunch, to get some sun to hopefully rejuvenate me for the afternoon #ldnont

Letters

RE: Set the stage, make an offer, published Aug. 22

While I was dismayed after reading the story about the sale of the London City Music Theatre, I cannot say I am surprised at all. The arts and theatre in this city, and especially live music, has been dwindling for years.

This sort of story is exactly the reason why this city should not be looking into a performing arts centre funded by tax dollars. Look no farther than Orchestra London to see what a waste of tax dollars that would be.

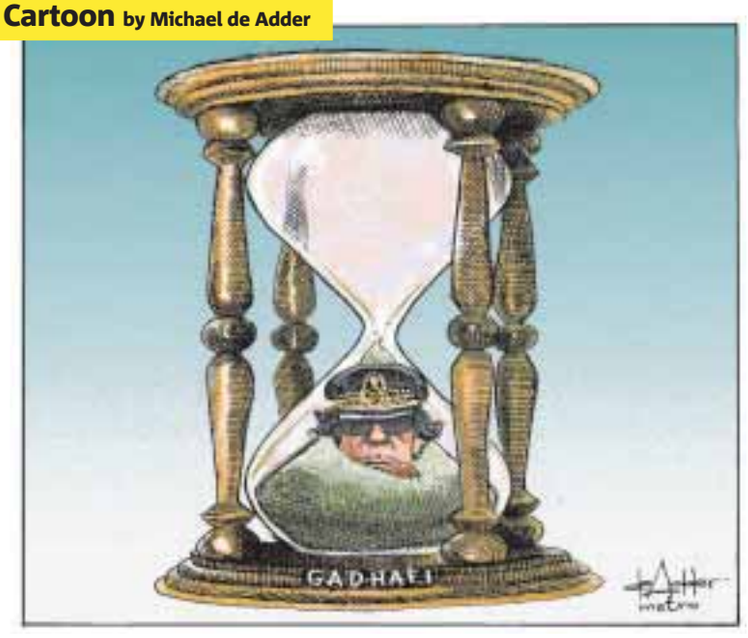
MIKE SHEEHAN
LONDON

RE: Get your knitting needles ready, published July 6

I would like to thank Metro for running an article that was recruiting knitters for our Shaken Baby Syndrome awareness campaign called Click for Babies. Because of metronews.ca and others, we have received hundreds of hats to date. Our goal is to receive 1,500 hats in total! Thanks a bunch for helping us reach the knitting community.

DENISE POLGAR,
INJURY PREVENTION SPECIALIST,
TRAUMA PROGRAM,
LONDON HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE/CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Cartoon by Michael de Adder



WEIRD NEWS

Signs of rogue panda disturb motorists

Authorities in Flagstaff, Ariz., are assuring residents there are no rogue pandas roaming the city after some pranksters got creative with an electronic street sign.

The Arizona Department of Transportation-controlled sign was set up to warn drivers not to make left turns at a busy intersection. But motorists heading to work Monday morning got an entirely different message: "Rogue panda on rampage."

A passerby reported the hacked sign to police at about 3 a.m. yesterday.

Transportation Department spokeswoman Mackenzie Nuno says the sign was restored to its original message by 11 a.m.

She says the agency has no suspects, but she noted the hackers would have needed specialized equipment to change the sign.

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HANDOUT

▶ Zoe Saldana re-defines the female assassin in Columbiana.

EMBRACING THE FEMME FATALE

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Chances are the first movie assassin names that pop into your head are The Jackal, Martin Q. Blank or El Mariachi. What do they have in common, other than flashy names and a predilection for gunning down their on-screen enemies?

They're all men.

What about the ladies? Beatrix Kiddo, Charlie Baltimore or Jane Smith?

Jean Luc Goddard said, "all you need to make a movie is a girl and a gun," and often these days filmmakers are placing that gun in the hands of female film assassins. Nikita is back on the tube and earlier this year Saoirse Ronan played a deadly 16-year-old in Hanna.

This weekend Avatar's Zoe Saldana is back as a stone-cold killer in Colombiana.

As Charlie Baltimore, Geena Davis created one of the screen's most loved female assassins in The Long Kiss Goodnight. Suffering from amnesia, when her past catches up with her she flip flops from suburban mom to killer.

Best Line?

"They're gonna blow my head off, you know. This is the last time I'll ever be pretty."

"They're gonna blow my head off, you know. This is the last time I'll ever be pretty."
GEENA DAVIS AS CHARLIE BALTIMORE IN THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT

Angelina Jolie's deadly demeanor has pumped up several action movies. Lara Croft was a gun-slinging super-heroine but she's also played assassins in two movies.

In Mr. and Mrs. Smith she's a hitlady assigned to kill her own on-screen (and future real life) partner Brad Pitt.

"Still alive baby?" she purrs after trying to shoot him through a wall.

Also, as Fox in Wanted she was a member of the Fraternity, a deadly group of killers, with the useful ability to shoot around corners. Best line?

"We kill one, and maybe save a thousand. That's the code of the Fraternity."

The highest body count must go to Beatrix Kiddo, played by Uma Thurman in Kill Bill parts one and two.

As a bride done wrong by her former Deadly Viper Assassination Squad colleagues (including Vivica A. Fox plays Vernita Green and Lucy Liu as O-Ren Ishii), Kiddo slices and dices her way through more than 100 opponents.

But the two most unlikely female assassins on film were found in Leon: The Professional and Kick-Ass.

In the former Natalie Portman was a 12-year-old who learns how to kill from her teacher, Léon (Jean Reno), a skillful but sensitive hitman.

In Kick-Ass, a 2010 action-comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Chloë Moretz, Hit Girl (Moretz) asks her father (and assassin mentor) for a Benchmade model 42 butterfly knife for her 11th birthday.

The comedic chameleon

Paul Rudd grows in a different direction with his new Our Idiot Brother

For more than a decade, Paul Rudd has served as that funny guy, effortlessly moving from sidekick (Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy, The 40-Year-Old Virgin) to scene stealer (Knocked Up, Forgetting Sarah Marshall) to straight man (Dinner for Schmucks, I Love You, Man). He's tackling his most transformative role yet in Our Idiot Brother.

The affable 42-year-old actor grew his hair and beard out last summer to portray Ned, an easygoing organic farmer whose lack of ambition and independence continually frustrate his family. Rudd developed the earnest character with friend-neighbour-director Jesse Peretz. (The pair first worked together on the 2002 improvisational comedy The Chateau.)

The indie dramedy, which was snapped up by The Weinstein Co. at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, is distinctly different from any of the other movies listed on Rudd's seemingly never-ending resume.

"It's just like life," Rudd recently said over breakfast. "It's not unrealistic or a cliche ... To me, the character wasn't just about his look: the long hair, the beard, the Crocs. Those are external things. He's just a good guy who's into biodynamic farming."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Paul Rudd

2 scene

He's back

Arnold Schwarzenegger will be making his movie comeback in New Mexico. The Valencia County New-Bulletin reports the movie Last Stand will start filming in Belen, N.M., in October.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Handwritten letter from author Kathryn Stockett becomes focal point in 'The Help' lawsuit

Kate Winslet saves Branson's mom from fire

Sure, she let 'Jack' freeze in the water after the Titanic sunk, but real-life actress is something of a lifesaver House destroyed, but no one was hurt

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kate Winslet

While vacationing in Richard Branson's estate on beautiful Necker Island, Kate Winslet narrowly escaped a massive fire that destroyed the home — and even carried Branson's 90-year-old mother, Eve, to safety.

"[Winslet] was staying there with her children and in fact it was she who carried my mother out of the house," Branson tells ITV News.

"She swept her up into her arms and got them out of the house as fast as possible."

Lightning during a tropical storm is said to be the cause of the fire.

"The main house is completely destroyed and the fire is not yet completely out," the billionaire Branson says.

METRO

Ryan puts his 6-pack to use

Ryan Gosling can add peacekeeper to his resumé.

The actor broke up a scuffle in New York recently when a man tried to run off with a street vendor's painting, according to Us Weekly.

"The painter was able to stop him before he took off with him and tackled him to the ground," a source says.

"Before it got too violent a stranger appeared to separate them. It was Ryan Gosling! He was trying to understand the situation while keeping them from hurting each other."

Gosling apparently escorted the men out of the street, paid for the painting and sent them on their separate ways.

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▶ Ryan 'superman' Gosling

Fearing Charlie's wrath

Denise Richards reportedly turned down a guest-starring role on the season premiere of Two and a Half Men, the show from which her ex-husband, Charlie Sheen, was fired, according to TMZ.

Sources close to the show say producers wanted Richards to appear alongside new series star Ashton Kutcher, but Richards told them she wouldn't do it, as "she would never hear the end of it from Charlie."

METRO

▶ Denise Richards

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▶Victoria Beckham

Victoria ditches her high heels — for now anyway

Victoria Beckham is recovering from a slipped disc in her back, and appeared in public for the first time since the problem developed — and she wasn't wearing her trademark high-heels, according to Us Weekly.

It's been speculated that the slipped disc was caused at least in part by Beckham's insistence to wear stilettos during her recent pregnancy.

"Thank you for your kind messages," Beckham posted on Twitter recently.

"I'm feeling much better and enjoying every precious minute with baby Harper. I'm so in love."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@IMKristenBell

"The stewardess just included calculators in her list of devices that must be powered down for take off. And she said it in all sincerity."

@JamieKennedy

"If you see a ruler in a gas station bathroom ... don't touch it."

@ConanOBrien

"I like my women the way I like my coffee. Yup, I like blonde slutty coffee with low self esteem."

@kirstiealley

"The day some studio decides to remake To Kill A Mockingbird.. imma kill all the mocking birds on earth. Thatll show em....er..that I'm nuts"

Third time's the charm

Jennifer Garner is pregnant once again, she and husband Ben Affleck confirmed to the Associated Press. This will be the couple's third child, joining daughters Violet, 5, and Seraphina, 2. "She's always wanted three kids," a source tells Us Weekly. "This was her plan all along."

METRO

A land of wonder and Inspiration

Gabriola Island in B.C. is a magnet for artists, earning it the nickname 'Isle of the Arts'

ALL PHOTOS BOOMER JERRITT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Visitors enjoy the beach on the northern tip of Gabriola Island.

There is immeasurable character and wonder to be discovered in the mystic landscape of Gabriola Island, in the Gulf Islands of British Columbia.

Within minutes of arriving, there's a good chance you'll spot an eagle soaring, watch deer scampering along the road or pass by the alpaca farm. Ancient petroglyphs are carved into sandstone throughout the island, which is a 20-minute ferry ride from Nanaimo.

There are more than a dozen beaches and ocean-side spots to visit, including the Malaspina Galleries, a stunning 3.5-metre natural sandstone formation created by years of wave erosion.

But the wondrousness isn't limited to the terrain.

According to the Gabriola Arts Council, the island has the fifth highest concentration of artists in all of Canada. The island is often referred to as the "Isle of the Arts."

"There's a real work ethic amongst the artists here," said Ramsey, who is president of the council. "They go out to their studio on Monday and come out on Friday with a whole body of work done."

Another intriguing characteristic about Gabriola is the high number of vintage cars that are seen during the summer months. Until recently, the local newspaper would publish a feature on a different vehicle every month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Glassworks artist Tammy Hudgeon is just one of many artists who make Gabriola Island her home.

GABRIOLA ISLAND

A history of hippies

The 4,200 residents who live here emit a laid-back, welcoming vibe.

Resident Kathy Ramsey says not to be surprised if the person working at the checkout of the grocery store is a former rocket scientist.

The eccentricity of the island could be traced back to its history as a hippie colony in the 1960s, when many

Earth-loving wanderers made their way over to live off the land, exploding the population

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 life

Iconic building closing its doors

For more than 80 years, the Royal Bank building on St. Jacques Street has graced the Montreal skyline, serving as an opulent temple to commerce and a reminder of the city's glory days as a banking capital. In a few short months, another chapter in Montreal history will close when the Royal Bank shutters its branch in a building that served as its headquarters from 1928 to 1962. When it opened, it was dubbed the tallest building in the British Empire.

The elegant main floor of the Florentine palazzo-style skyscraper remains one of Montreal's most popular tourist attractions — but it's not yet clear whether visitors will still be able to access it beyond next spring. Next year's final move, scheduled for April or May, will close a chapter in Montreal's banking history.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paris airport brings Star Trek holodeck to terminal with virtual boarding agents.

What lies beneath

Soon, the public will get a closer look at sea life from the Bay of Fundy St. Andrews, N.B. readies aquarium

A new $8-million aquarium highlighting sea life from the Bay of Fundy will open in St. Andrews by Labour Day and is expected to attract at least 50,000 visitors a year, says spokesman Jim Cornall.

The 1,850-square-metre Fundy Discovery Aquarium, located at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, will remain open year-round. It replaces a much smaller aquarium that had been at the site since 1972 and was torn down in May 2010.

A pair of popular harbour seals named Loki and Snorkel are back, giving shows at twice-a-day feedings, but they now occupy a deep pool with an underwater window, said Cornall.

"The viewing experience for the public is certainly better."

There are also rare 10-kilogram lobsters, a large touch pool featuring sea stars, crabs, sea cucumbers and other animals, and a separate touch pool with skates.

"We carry a range of creatures that would be in the (Fundy) intertidal zone all the way down to the deep sea" — a broad selection that allows the aquarium to raise issues such as ecology, climate change and invasive species, says Cornall.

As well, a two-storey display shows the height of the local tides.

"We're lucky that the Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world. It's an impressive exhibit."

The federal and New Brunswick governments each contributed $2.5 million toward the aquarium, while the Huntsman Marine Science Centre, a research and education facility, added $3 million.

St. Andrews, in the southwest corner of N.B., is about 100 kilometres west of Saint John.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALL PHOTOS, THE HUNTSMAN MARINE SCIENCE CENTRE, THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The popular harbour seal Snorkel will be giving twice-daily shows at the new aquarium.

▶ This lobster was raised at the aquarium from an egg.

▶ The new aquarium will be located at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre.

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Departs Sep 27/sgn/wg.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star $437
Holiday Inn Sunspree + taxes & fees $348
Departs Sep 24/nol/ts.

Panama 7 Nights 4-Star $537
Royal Decameron Golf, Beach Resort + taxes & fees $312
Departs Sep 12/nol/c6.

St Maarten 7 Nights 4-Star $728
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Departs Sep 16/vat/ts.

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Drink of the week

Blueberry-Basil Rickey

- 1 sprig fresh basil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sugar
- 60 ml (2 oz) blueberry juice
- 15 ml (1/2 oz) lime juice
- 30 ml (1 oz) gin (optional)
- Ice
- Club soda
- Handful of fresh blueberries

In bottom of highball glass, muddle basil with sugar. Pour in blueberry juice, lime juice and gin (if using) and stir to dissolve sugar. Add ice and club soda, stirring gently. Garnish with blueberries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ALISON LADMAN

Comfort foods of Italy — that's amore

Tomatoes star in this easy, delicious Pasta Pomodoro

One of the basic ways Italians prepare garden-fresh tomatoes is in a pomodoro sauce made with basil and garlic tossed with pasta. This dish embodies the core philosophy of Italian food: letting a few perfectly ripe ingredients shine.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preparation:

1. In pot, bring 6 l (24 cups) of water to a boil. Add 30 ml (2 tbsp) of salt.
2. In non-stick skillet over medium-low, heat 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) of the oil. Add garlic slices and toast, stirring constantly, for 3 or until lightly browned. Increase heat to medium, add red pepper flakes and half of the basil leaves. Cook for 30 seconds, then add tomatoes.
3. Add pasta to boiling water and cook until al dente according to package directions.
4. Meanwhile, toss tomatoes in skillet and cook until they start to blister and the skins pop. Mash tomatoes with potato masher or fork to make pulp, then turn off heat. Season lightly with salt and black pepper.
5. Drain pasta, reserving 50 ml (1/4 cup) of cooking water. Add pasta and reserved pasta water to tomato mix. Increase heat to medium-high. Add half of cheese. Cook until sauce begins to cling to noodles, using heat-resistant rubber spatula to toss pasta to coat.
6. Add remaining basil and olive oil and toss to coat. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Divide pasta among 4 plates and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO

Ingredients:

- Salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- Pinch red pepper flakes (peperoncino)
- 16 fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces, divided
- 1 l (4 cups) very ripe grape tomatoes (about 80 grape tomatoes)
- 250 g (8 oz) dry kamut spaghetti
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 30 ml (1 oz) Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, freshly grated, divided

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A FEW RULES YOU MAY HAVE WRONG AT WORK

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
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"Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary."
–Winston Churchill

The above quote is as true at work as it is in life, except that in workplace law there is always an exception. Here is a sampling of some of the questions readers of this column frequently ask and the answers I often provide.

Performance appraisals
When assessing merit, your appraisals matter. When assessing severance, they are mostly irrelevant. This is because poor performance is seldom cause for dismissal. Similarly, there is no such concept as "near cause", which means there is no correlation between your level of performance and the quantum of severance you will ultimately receive. Therefore, if you are fired and it relates to performance, you should receive the same severance as if it did not.

Letters of reference
Employees believe they are always entitled to a reference. However, there is no rule or law compelling a reference, no matter how long or meritorious your service.

Employment contracts
If there is a written contract, it has to meet a number of tests. You must, at least, be given the opportunity to negotiate or those terms that are punitive may not be enforced later on. This rule also applies during the course of employment, except that something of greater value must also be offered, such as a raise or a promotion, in exchange for a contract. Otherwise, the courts have reasoned, an employer could unilaterally impose new terms, and you would be left without the leverage to negotiate or refuse.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. TO READ THIS ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY VISIT METRONEWS.CA

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Risks and rewards

STUDENT VOICE

RAMAN BATTU
TALENTEGG.CA

Raman Battu

I was just about to complete my Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing from Ryerson University. I started looking for jobs a few months before graduation, but I wasn't prepared for the problems I would face.

I quickly realized that employers didn't care about the marketing courses I had taken, or my GPA. They cared about relevant work experience.

Fortunately, I had some prior experience compared to some graduates but even that was minimal.

With this small experience, I was able to get through to a few second interviews. However, I always heard the same thing when employers were making the final cuts: I didn't get the job because I lacked experience.

It was so frustrating having to convince an employer to give me a chance! How else do they expect any new graduate to gain experience?

Employers can't expect every graduate to be the complete package. We are young, motivated and full of fresh, new ideas!

Employers should take a risk and hire new graduates. It doesn't matter if we haven't worked in a large corporation or do not have a specific skill. We can learn! That's what we have been doing our whole academic careers. Don't undervalue a graduate by thinking there is no time to train them.

Career centres and schools also need to do more to help students by providing them with co-op experience while in school, regardless of their GPA.

Schools should also provide hands-on experience during class time. For example, case studies are a great way to practice new problem solving skills that employers are looking for.

Also, schools should constantly update courses to better assist students. When I graduated in 2010, I learned nothing about social media and its relation to marketing, a knowledge base that would have been highly useful upon graduation.

My recommendation to students would be this: find an internship or part-time position while you're still in school so you can get your foot in the door.

Ask friends, family or your current employer for opportunities that relate to your field. Networking with professors and students while in school can also help you find a job sooner.

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What I learned

Key take-aways from Raman's experience:

- Don't wait until graduation to start searching for meaningful work. Try to secure an internship or part-time work during school so that you're one step ahead of the competition upon graduation.
- Building your network while in school can also help you find a job post-graduation. Your professors can be a great resource when looking for career-related advice.

Where Raman is now

I eventually did find a job at a small company through a mutual friend. I appreciated the fact that my employer took the risk to hire me, a new graduate. Having gained more experience, I am currently looking for a marketing position with more responsibilities to help grow my career.

‘This isn’t the end,’ says Hill after trade

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kelly Johnson

Although it’s farewell, it might not be goodbye.

“I have not ruled out either player being back here in 2012,” Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos said after announcing yesterday that second baseman Aaron Hill and infielder John McDonald had been traded to the Arizona Diamondbacks for second baseman Kelly Johnson.

All three players can be free agents in the off-season.

“This is all I’ve known, this has been my family,” Hill told the media at Rogers Centre before the Jays game with the Kansas City Royals. “Like Alex said, I’m very open to coming back next year. This isn’t the end.”

Added McDonald: “I’ve had a lot of conversations with Alex recently about just that, about continuing to be a Toronto Blue Jay, and that excites me too.”

The 29-year-old Johnson, long rumoured to be a Jays target, has appeared in 114 games for Arizona this season, posting a .209 average with 18 home runs, 49 RBIs and 13 stolen bases.

A first-round pick of the Atlanta Braves in 2000, Johnson is a career .260 hitter with 89 home runs and 326 RBIs in 758 games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lightning set for tip-off

London Lightning unveil logo and first head coach Team set to begin play Nov. 3 at JLC versus Halifax

The squeak of hardwood is one step closer to infiltrating the John Labatt Centre as the London Lightning — the Forest City’s franchise in the fledgling National Basketball League of Canada — introduced their logo and inaugural head coach, Michael Ray Richardson, yesterday afternoon.

“Within the next two weeks, we’ll have our website up and going,” said general manager Taylor Brown. “Ticket sales will be available at the John Labatt Centre and we’re really just going to keep pushing the marketing and getting the team together and getting training camp ready to go.”

In Richardson, the Lightning have a coach with an established basketball pedigree. He played college basketball at the University of Montana and then spent eight years in the NBA, most notably with the New York Knicks and the New Jersey Nets.

“(We’re going) to play a real fast-paced game, a great defensive game,” Richardson said. “Defence wins championships. It’s going to be really exciting basketball.”

The Lightning took the first steps to fill out their roster on Sunday with three selections in the NBL draft. They chose Tyrone Levett from Alabama in the first round, Mississauga’s Isaac Kuon in the second round and Winnipeg’s Nick Lother in the third round.

“London won’t have seen players like this before,” Brown said. “The quality will be a step below the NBA. These guys are all major Division I basketball players — they’ve played at high levels, they’ve played overseas.”

MIKE ARSENAULT

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

▶ London Lightning head coach Michael Ray Richardson speaks at a media conference yesterday at the John Labatt Centre. The Lightning also unveiled the new team logo, at right.

4 sports

Quoted

“It’d be tough, we need him. He’s the face of the NHL. It obviously would take away from our game not having him in the lineup, so hopefully everything goes well.”

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING FORWARD STEVEN STAMKOS YESTERDAY, ON THE PROSPECT OF SIDNEY CROSBY MISSING MORE TIME DUE TO CONCUSSION INJURIES. THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS STAR WAS RUMOURED THIS WEEK TO HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK IN HIS RECOVERY.

“It’s scary with the amount of concussions, not only with him, over the past couple years. As a fellow player in the league, you want to prevent that sort of thing.”

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5 drive

Spacious coupe

As a four-door wearing a two-door's body, the tester offered up a surprisingly generous back seat, easy entry and exit, a massive trunk, and a great forward view of the road.

No issue with space on board for a four-person road trip, and up front, the driver and passenger could easily forget they aren't simply in a sedan.

Typical coupe-related compromises are largely eliminated, here.

Interior

Most will find the cabin styling modest and plain, an attribute embodied most heavily in the graphics of the infotainment system which are on par with the average gas station ATM machine.

This part of the Accord is in dire need of an update.

Engine

Under the testers' hood, Honda's 3.5-litre SOHC V6 engine dispenses 271 horsepower to the front wheels, thanks in part to the automaker's proven VTEC valve timing system. Among other things, VTEC ramps up engine output and sound effects at higher revs, creating a delightfully peaky power-curve. Honda's proven J35 Z3 powerplant sounds fantastic, loves to work and moves the Accord Coupe along like absolute heck.

A six-speed manual transmission took centre stage within the tester. It offered up a fairly slick shift action despite a longer throw, as well as a light and easygoing clutch.

▶ Though the Accord Coupe doesn't have the world's sportiest shifter, it is easy to bang some gears and get this rocket coupe blasting along so quickly the tires can barely keep up. Torque steer is present though well managed, and in all, it's an entertaining and delightful drivetrain to put through its paces.

Family-car roots shine through in Accord Coupe

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

With Honda greats like the Prelude, NSX, S2000 and CRX all retired to that great big sports-car graveyard in the sky, it's now the Honda Accord V6 Coupe that stands as the brand's ultimate performance offering. This two-door version of Honda's elemental family sedan has recently been updated in the cosmetic department, and now looks more alert, sharp and aggressive.

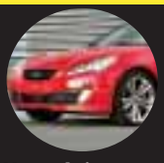
That's slightly more fitting, perhaps, for a performance flagship riding the same platform as one of the most sensible family rides on the road.

When driving, handling of the Accord is tidy overall, though enthusiast drivers will likely wish for a little less body roll, a little quicker steering and some more aggressive tires. The Accord Coupe isn't a handling monster first and foremost, but it's entertaining to push hard, not to mention comfortable, compliant and relatively quiet during cruising.

End of the day, the Accord Coupe's surprising sensibility, as well as Honda's reputation for reliability, quality and residual value will be big draws here.

▶ At hand storage facilities are generous in the cabin. Two large cupholders are fitted, and things are all nicely equipped and set up for day-to-day life.

By comparison



Hyundai Genesis Coupe
Shopping? Be sure to check out the Hyundai Genesis 3.8 GT Coupe, too. For a few dollars more than the loaded Accord V6 tester, it offers up a Limited Slip Differential (LSD), Brembo brakes, and more dramatic looks. JUSTIN PRITCHARD

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metro

This used Pontiac can get you fly like a G6

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Replacing the popular Grand Am, Pontiac's 2005 G6 hit the market in 2004 with the promise of better quality, performance, looks and dynamics than its predecessor.

By doing away with the Grand Am nameplate, the now-extinct American brand was clearly aiming for a new beginning in the G6's segment — and had their eyes on taking a piece of the pie from the Japanese competition.

Coupe, sedan and convertible models were available, as were numerous trim levels and options packages to fit a variety of needs.

2006 to 2011 Pontiac G6

Engine

Look for G6 with a 3.5-L V6 with 200 horsepower, a 2.4-L four-cylinder with 169 horsepower, and two up-level V6 engines displacing 3.6 and 3.9-litres and generating 242 or 240 horsepower.

What owners like

Owners taking to the Internet to share experiences typically rave about styling, overall value, ride quality, and decent fuel mileage with any of the "smaller" engines. Comments like "fun to drive," "sharp looking," and "sporty" are common.

What owners dislike

Complaints tend to centre around lower-than-expected cabin build quality and materials selection, some noises as the G6 ages, and a rattly sunroof. Some wish for better gas mileage from the larger engines.

Common issues

Well-documented problems with the G6's electric power steering may result in a loss of power steering assist — meaning the steering could become stiff and feel "locked up" at speed.

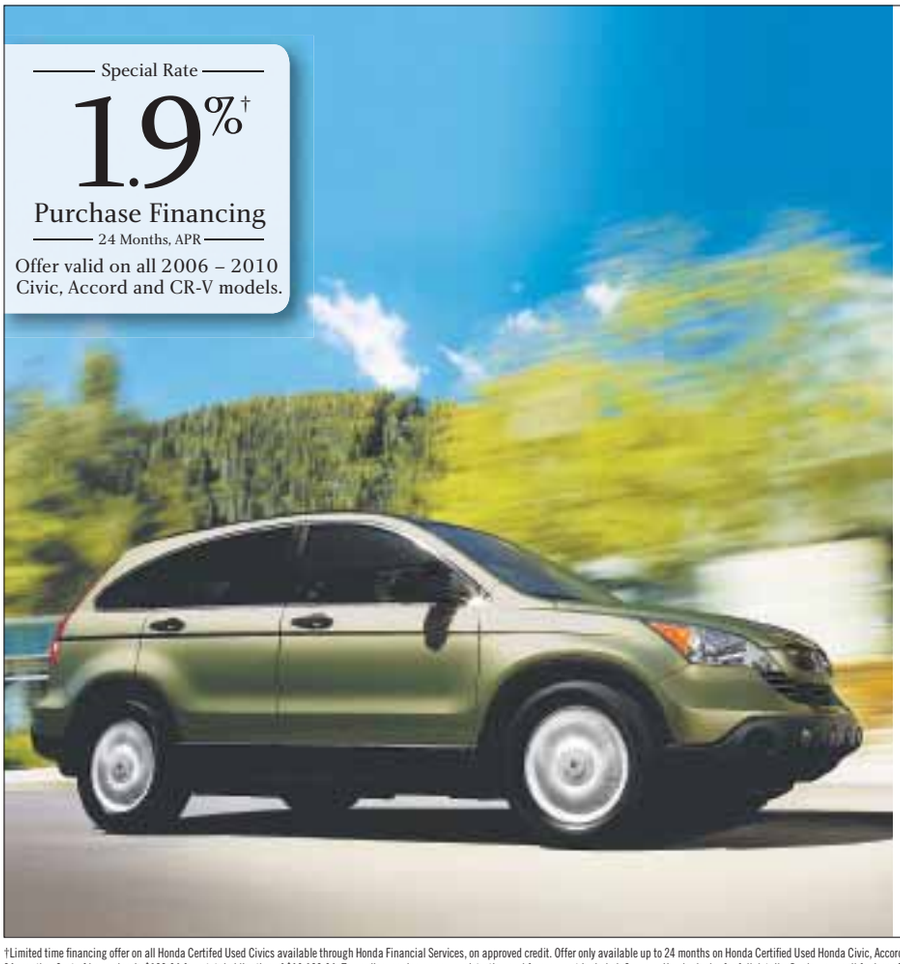
This safety issue was addressed by a service bulletin, and any GM mechanic should be able to check and replace the troublesome parts.

A check of the vehicle's suspension and front-end is also advised.

Verdict

Opt for a newer, used G6, and you'll likely find an affordable, solid and sporty driving companion.

Expect above-average sportiness and performance, and below-average resale value.



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GRAND OPEN-AIR CONCEPT POINTS TO CADILLAC'S FUTURE

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Cadillacs of yesteryear were big, imposing expressions of American affluence and confidence. Mobsters, movie stars and other big shots loved them, and used them to extend their A-type personalities.

Then something happened during the 1970s. They lost their Mojo and starting hanging out with the wrong crowd — retired Floridians who favoured white golfing slacks and/or dinner theatre.

Cadillac gradually got its 'cred back, mostly through a very successful new exterior design language called Art and Science, which debuted on the original CTS in 2002. Those sharp angles and crisp lines were not universally loved, but they definitely gave Cadillac a decisive and modern personality.

What's next?

Well, we now have some idea, thanks to the unveiling of the Ciel concept, at last weekend's Concours d'Elegance classic car show at the Pebble Beach country club in California.

I wasn't there, which is just as well, because we all know that part of California just sucks (OK, maybe some sour grapes talking).

But we have pictures and they reveal that the

GM/CADILLAC

▶ Behold the Cadillac Ciel — pronounced "C-L," the French translation for sky.

Ciel — French for sky and pronounced "C-L" — is evolving Cadillac's Art and Science design toward a more flowing direction. Not quite a river, but definitely less geometry class.

The other intent of Ciel is to announce that Cadillac is anxious to once again have a big halo type vehicle in its portfolio, which it could stack against the range-topping models from rivals BMW and Mercedes-Benz (7 Series and S Class Sedans, respectively).

As such Ciel is big. It sits on a 125-inch wheelbase, and is 12 inches longer than Cadillac's current biggest sedan, the CTS. The "open air grand tourer" body style, complete with suicide doors, is purposefully extravagant, as are the interior accoutrements and conveniences.

The hybrid powerplant is a sign of the times: 3.6-litre V6 with twin turbochargers, and lithium-battery powered electric motor.

"The Ciel is about the romance of the drive," noted Clay Dean, Cadillac's global design director.

"It emulates the great touring cars seen on the greens at Pebble Beach, but with a more modern flair that projects Cadillac's vision for the future."

Unfortunately the totally topless Ciel is a bit too out there for production.

Only the styling cues and some finishes, like the vintage wood treatment and Cabernet paint job will make it into production. (The latter inspired by the "rich translucence of a glass of red wine held up to the sunlight.")

But good on Cadillac for shooting big. Ciel is a nice shot.

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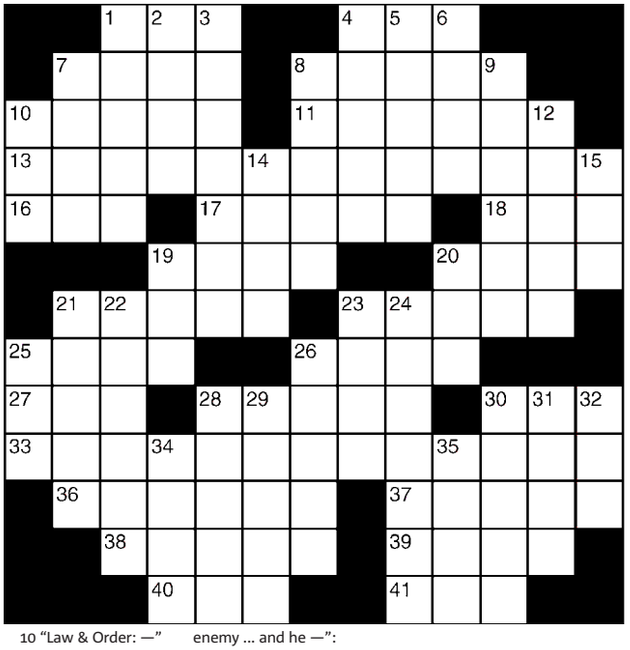

Across

1 Chocolate dog, for short
4 Suntan lotion abbr.
7 Earth
8 Wall art
10 Rock
11 Egyptian underworld god
13 "Monopoly" property
16 High points
17 Glover or DeVito
18 Yea canceler
19 His and —
20 "— Only Just Begun"
21 Battle reminders
23 Hotel accommodation
25 Laugh-a-minute
26 King —
27 Blunder
28 Biscotti flavoring
30 Korean automaker
33 Jeff Dunham or Terry Fator
36 Impulse carrier
37 Excessive
38 Speedy horses
39 Tosses in
40 "Science Guy" Bill
41 Actress Myrna

Down

1 Crazy birds
2 "— She Sweet?"
3 Bartender's need
4 Soap star Lucci
5 — to (in on)
6 Bus rider's pay
7 Dance lesson
8 Early periods
9 Common finch
10 "Law & Order: —"
12 Debonair
14 Galley lineup
15 22-Down's location
19 Chapeau
20 Peruke
21 Temptress
22 Pupil's coat
23 Mediocre
24 Not the same
25 Gun the engine
26 Potters' ovens
28 Orderly grouping
29 Mythical weeper
30 Small child (Var.)
31 "We have met the enemy ... and he —": Pogo
32 Devoured
34 Swerve
35 Loosen

▶ Yesterday's answer

H	A	R	D	■	P	O	P	■	S	A	N	G
U	S	S	R	■	A	R	E	■	O	H	I	O
L	A	V	E	■	W	A	R	D	R	O	B	E
A	P	P	A	R	E	L	■	A	B	Y	S	S
■	■	■	M	U	D	■	W	Y	E	■	■	■
H	A	S	T	E	■	C	O	S	T	U	M	E
E	L	K	■	■	A	U	K	■	■	S	E	A
R	A	I	M	E	N	T	■	E	V	E	N	T
■	■	■	U	S	N	■	B	A	A	■	■	■
S	C	O	T	T	■	G	A	R	M	E	N	T
C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G	■	P	L	E	A
O	U	Z	O	■	T	A	G	■	E	B	O	N
T	E	E	N	■	S	T	Y	■	D	A	N	K

Sudoku

			2				1	6
	6		1				8	
		8			5	7		
8				9	2			
	2	3				8	5	
			5	8				7
		5	3			2		
	7				6		9	
4	1				7			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	3	7	1	9	8	6	2	4
9	1	2	3	4	6	5	8	7
4	8	6	2	5	7	1	9	3
1	2	5	9	6	3	7	4	8
7	9	8	4	2	5	3	1	6
3	6	4	7	8	1	9	5	2
6	4	9	5	3	2	8	7	1
8	5	1	6	7	4	2	3	9
2	7	3	8	1	9	4	6	5

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pebbles. Baby. I just want you to know that I love everything about you. From the girl I first met to the woman you're becoming. You make me so happy. I can't remember ever having so much fun doin nothing. I can't fall asleep unless you're right with your head on my chest. Thank you for reminding me what love is.
BAM BAM

To J B, Oh baby your lips look so tender and it look so true , believe me when i tell you i cannot wait for my dream to come true. i love u
H D

c, To hold you tight, to kiss you and to dance with you forever is all I dream of. OMG how much I miss that smile n those big blue eyes. You are my soul mate and my heartbeat. I am lonely without you. I miss you so much n can't live without you. LOVE YOU crazy!
S

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 Those who think you lack imagination will be forced to think again.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 There may be something you're desperate to say. If you're smart, you will hold off for a few more days.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 As usual, you are ahead of your time. As usual others will struggle to keep up. Roll with it.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 Your latest idea may be brilliant but how are you going to make it pay? Give it some thought today.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug.23 No matter how set in your ways you may be, you will do something out of character today.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Your ego is a bit fragile. That will change dramatically in 48 hours.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You know what you want to do but you don't know if you have what it takes to make a success of it. You won't know 'till you try.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You need to get out of the mental rut you've somehow become stuck in.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Keep one eye on the news today because a new idea could inspire you to change your life.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You can do no wrong at the moment, so feel free to take risks.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Because you're so quick to spot new trends, so look for ways to make your insight pay off.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Your heightened sense of awareness will help you see patterns and meanings

SALLY BROMPTON

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